

Where's The Art?



American schools have made incredible gains that focus on student learning in art. Most states have identified art knowledges and skills students should learn and thousands of art teachers have redesigned their curriculum and realigned their instructional practices. School districts and universities are working together on new professional development and continuing education programs. Yet, there is a dearth of assessment on art learning in our classrooms, schools, and states.

In most states, arts assessment is not a state program or mandate. In 2000, the Council of Chief State School Officers indicated five states reported statewide assessment programs in the arts (45 did not).

An NAEA study of secondary schools in 2001 revealed that 19% of the high schools conducted standardized or district-wide assessments in art (81% did not). A National Center of Education Statistics 2002 report (NCES 2002-131) found that 17% of the elementary schools (82% did not), and 23% secondary schools (77% did not), conducted standardized or district-wide assessments in art.

How are we to know if our students are learning?

We need better arts education policies for our children!

What Can You Do?

- *Lead efforts to generate public understanding of the ideas behind the importance of art education policies that promote student learning in art.*
- *Encourage parents, school boards, legislators, press/media to support better policies for art education programs that lead to student learning in art.*
- *Spend time at public meetings to review how art education policies can enhance the quality of art education for all students.*

SUPPORT IMPROVING ART EDUCATION POLICIES.

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